

**Title: When Faith Falls Short**

**February 2, 2020**

**Text: Acts 8:9-24**

**Walk-In:** Today we encounter Christianity's first encounter with the occult. It won't be the last (see Acts 13:6 ff.). In this 'power encounter' we see the danger of the failure to understand the true nature of faith or the nature of true faith. Let's take a look....

**First, faith falls short when it is I \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Simon himself believed and was baptized." - Acts 8:13*

Instances where faith is not true faith:

John 2:23-25

Luke 8:13

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

**There is faith that is non-saving faith.**

**Then, faith falls short when it is M \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"And he followed Philip everywhere, **astonished by the great signs and miracles** he saw." - Acts 8:13b*

*"When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, **he offered them money** and said, 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.'" - Acts 8:18,19*

**Simon's Background**

**Sometimes we can get enamored with the E \_\_\_\_\_ of evidence and miss the I \_\_\_\_\_ of the working of God.**

**Sometimes people can get C \_\_\_\_\_, but not be R \_\_\_\_\_.**

**We settle for A \_\_\_\_\_ when God calls us to A \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Himself* by A.B. Simpson

**Finally, faith falls short when it misses the H \_\_\_\_\_ of the matter.** *"You have no part or share in this ministry, because **your heart is not right before God**. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." - Acts 8:21-23*

At the root of Simon's false faith was a heart problem. And that is the way it is with every one of us. His heart was not straight before God; it was crooked. His heart needed to be changed.

**Wrap-up:** We must always remember that God is the one who knows our hearts and judges justly. But be sure your faith is authentically anchored in Jesus alone and not just enamored with external experiences and emotion. Allow His Spirit to go to the heart of the matter with you and open your heart wide to the work of His Spirit to continue His good work in you.